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WILLIAM FRANCISCO SPOTSWOOD, the son of Dandridge Spotswood and Catherine Francisco, was born in Petersburg on the sixteenth of February, 1828, and died there April the thirteenth, 1895.

He was the great-great-grandson of the Colonial Governor, Alexander Spotswood, being an equal distance in descent from him with his kinsman General Robert E. Lee, and inherited much of the prudence, discretion, industry, and energy that characterized his illustrious ancestor. His teachers, Miss Mary Gordon, Mr. Wm. Spencer Childs, and the Faculty of the Petersburg Classical Institute, gave testimony to his diligence and steady progress. He intended to study medicine at the University, but the death of his father in September, 1849, changed his plans, and he became a druggist and apothecary. Methodical and painstaking in art and business, he was not only a successful merchant, but perhaps trained more and better druggists than any man in the State. During the war his skill was employed in hospital service by Surgeons Porcher and Hines, of the Confederate medical staff, although he served for some time in the trenches, being stationed at Battery Five on the river the week prior to the "Citizens' Fight," June 9th, 1864.

Mr. Spotswood, although not an ambitious man, and always shy of conspicuous notoriety, was a man of affairs among his fellows. He succeeded Mr. Andrew Kevan as chairman of the City School Board, having long been a working trustee, and administered its duties with ability and discretion. He was for more than ten years treasurer of the Gas Company, and for twice as long a period president of the Aqueduct Company, succeeding the late Judge Wm. T. Joynes. A faithful Mason, he held the office of Deputy Grand Master. He was an honorary member of the Mechanics Benevolent Association. He was for years president of the City Council and acting Mayor. A Presbyterian in belief and practice, he often expressed his admiration for that comprehensive formula of Christianity, the "Assembly's Catechism." Scrupulously exact in matters of business, he guarded the approach to every obligation. Frugal and industrious, he taught economy by its proper practice, and these old-fashioned virtues shone in his daily habit of life.

An enthusiastic lover of history and antiquarian, he early formed the habit of preserving printed extracts of value, drawings, engravings, documents, pertaining to State, municipal or private history, in securely bound books, of which fourteen volumes remain as monuments of his care and diligence. These books contain valuable information upon historical and genealogical topics gathered from reputable journals, are full of illustrations, and go back to 1798. They excel in value any similar collections except those made in the same manner by the late Charles C. Campbell.

Mr. Spotswood was not a showy, not an ostentatious man. Many acts of his private beneficence have come to light since his death. A group of sincerely attached friends, who were wont to gather around him at

twilight, are strangely bereaved, missing his cheery greeting, the practical common sense of his talk, devoid of all malice or ungenerous criticism, now and then garnished with dry but good-natured humor. When shall we see his like again?

F. P. L.

HON. PELEG EMORY ALDRICH,\* LL. B., LL. D., of Worcester, was born in New Salem, Massachusetts, July 24, 1813, and died in Worcester, March 14, 1895. He was a lineal descendant from George Aldrich, who came from England in 1635, and settled first in Dorchester, and afterward in Meriden. The descendants from this family are very numerous, and are now living in nearly every State of the Union. It has had its representatives in all the learned professions and both houses of Congress. Several of them have been judges in the courts of different States. Some have been known in literature. The majority have been farmers for seven generations.

Mr. Aldrich was not a graduate of college; although, after leaving the academy, he pursued, by himself, a course of study equal to that of a New England college. He was graduated from the Harvard Law School in 1844, receiving the degree of LL. B. He was admitted to the bar of Richmond, Va., in 1845, and in Springfield, Mass., in 1846. He began the practice of law in Barre, Mass., and continued there seven years. For three years he was editor and publisher of the *Barre Gazette*. He removed to Worcester in 1854, and entered into partnership with Hon. Peter C. Bacon, which partnership continued until he left the bar for the bench in 1873. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention, from Barre, in 1853, and was a representative from Worcester, in the State Legislature in the year 1866 and 1867, and took an active part in the debates and business of the House. In 1862 he was mayor of Worcester, and was interested not only in the ordinary duties of his office, but in the large number of soldiers, who were at that time in the army from Worcester. He visited them in their camps and hospitals, and used the means within his command to promote their comfort and efficiency. In 1870 he was appointed by Governor Claflin a member of the State Board of Health, a position which he continued to hold until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Aldrich was eminent as a judge of the Superior Court. He had a capacity for doing an enormous amount of hard work, and doing it rapidly, without apparent labor on his part. He was a well read lawyer, and had his resources well at his command. If he was somewhat stern and severe in his manner, he was always guided by his sense of justice. He was a judge of undoubted integrity and remarkable insight.

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\* This sketch is from the *New England Historical Genealogical Register*.